

Listing of the Claims:

1-25. Cancelled

26. (Previously Presented) A method for lifting epithelium from an eye having a cornea with an epithelium and stroma, comprising the steps of: placing an epithelial delaminator and moving the epithelium delaminator member to apply a mechanical force beneath the epithelium with a force sufficient to lift the epithelium in a continuous layer but not to cut the stroma.

27 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 where the step of applying a mechanical force comprises a step of forming an epithelial flap.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 where the step of applying a mechanical force comprises a step of peeling the epithelial flap to expose the stroma.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 further comprising the step of performing a surgical step on the stroma.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29 where the surgical step comprises reshaping the stroma.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30 where the surgical step of reshaping the stroma comprises applying a laser beam to the stroma.

32. (Previously Presented) The method claim of 31 further comprising the step of replacing the flap on the stroma.

33. (Previously Presented) The method claim of 26 wherein the lifted epithelium contains substantially no corneal tissue.